

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-11

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 DODE-00 SAJ-01 PRS-01 L-02 SP-02

IO-03 ACDA-10 DRC-01 /067 W
----- 013785

R 251645Z SEP 74

FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4047

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

S E C R E T BERLIN 1694

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, WB, GW, GE

SUBJECT: STILL MORE ON PRESENT FRG-GDR RELATIONSHIP

REF: (A) BERLIN 1680 (B) BONN 15121

1. AT A MEETING I HAD WITH SENATOR FOR FEDERAL AFFAIRS STOBBE ON SEPTEMBER 24, THE LATTER INDICATED THAT THE FRG-GDR PACKAGE WAS ESSENTIALLY SET AND THAT THE BERLIN SENAT HAD NO REAL CHOICE BUT TO ACCEPT IT. THE GENERAL THRUST OF HIS REMARKS TENDED TO SUPPORT THE CONCLUSION CONTAINED IN PARAGRAPH 7, BONN'S 15121.

2. IN EXPLAINING THE RATIONALE FOR THE PACKAGE, STOBBE NOTED THAT THE ENTIRE DEAL HAD TO BE CONSIDERED AS A FACTOR OF FRG/SOVIET ARRANGEMENTS. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE EXPLAINED THAT THE GERMANS AND THE SOVIETS WERE ALMOST FULLY AGREED ON A NUCLEAR POWER PLANT AND POWER DISTRIBUTION ARRANGEMENT. THIS INCLUDED A POWER NETWORK FROM KALININGRAD THROUGH WEST BERLIN TO A POINT IN WEST GERMANY NEAR HANOVER. THE SOVIETS, ACCORDING TO
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STOBBE, WOULD CONTROL THE LINES UP TO THE WEST BERLIN BOUNDARY

AND THEN WHEN IT CROSSED OVER AGAIN INTO THE GDR, AND ON TO THE GDR/FRG FRONTIER. IN WEST BERLIN, THE LINES WOULD BE UNDER GERMAN CONTROL. THIS WOULD GIVE THE WEST BERLINERS BETTER ASSURANCE OF CONTINUING POWER. IF SOVIETS WERE EVER TO CURTAIL THE SUPPLY, THE INSTALLED LINES COULD STILL BE USED TO TRANSMIT POWER FROM THE FRG (TO WEST BERLIN)--ASSUMING, OF COURSE, IT WAS SOVIET INTENTION TO PERMIT THE SUPPLY TO CONTINUE. THE PRESENT SCHEDULE, STOBBE SAID, CALLS FOR FRG ECONOMICS MINISTER FRIDERICH'S TO GO TO MOSCOW PRIOR TO THE SCHMIDT VISIT TO COMPLETE THE POWER ARRANGEMENTS (INCLUDING COSTS AND PRICES) SO THAT SCHMIDT AND BREZHNEV WILL BE ABLE TO SIGN A FINAL DOCUMENT DURING THE CHANCELLOR'S VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION AT THE END OF OCTOBER.

3. ALL THIS, STOBBE WENT ON TO EXPLAIN, IN FACT ELIMINATED THE GDR AS A MEANINGFUL NEGOTIATING PARTNER ON THE QUESTION OF POWER AND REDUCED THE DIMENSIONS OF AN FRG/GDR BARGAIN TO SUCH NUTS AND BOLTS ITEMS AS REPORTED IN THE TWO REFERENCED MESSAGES.

4. STOBBE ALSO SPENT CONSIDERABLE TIME DISCUSSING THE LONG-STANDING TELTOW CANAL PROJECT (TO WHICH GDR IN PAST NOT REPEAT NOT PARTICULARLY FORTHCOMING) WHICH HE SAID WAS OF GREATER INTEREST TO WEST BERLIN THAN THE GDR--ALTHOUGH THE MONIES THAT WOULD ACCRUE TO THE GDR WOULD NOT BE INSUBSTANTIAL. HE SAID THAT IT WAS ENTIRELY POSSIBLE THAT THIS ARRANGEMENT WOULD BE NEGOTIATED BY THE TWO GERMAN GOVERNMENTS AND WONDERED WHETHER THE ALLIES WOULD OBJECT TO SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT OR WOULD THEY PREFER A SENT/GDR NEGOTIATION; (I TOLD STOBBE THAT PERSONALLY I COULD SEE NO BASIS FOR ALLIED OBJECTIONS. INDEED, SUCH A NEGOTIATION WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH POSITION WE HAVE TAKEN CONSISTENTLY ON QUESTION OF TIES. HOWEVER, I WOULD HAVE TO CHECK THIS MATTER OUT CAREFULLY BEFORE I COULD GIVE HIM A FINAL ANSWER.)

5. IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROPOSED HAMBURG-BERLIN AUTOBAHN, STOBBE SAID THAT PROJECT WAS OF GREATER INTEREST TO THE GDR THAN THE FRG, BUT HE WAS CONVINCED THAT IT WAS A LEGITIMATE BARGAINING ISSUE.

6. CLEARLY THEN, A FRG/GDR BARGAIN HAS BEEN STRUCK. ITS CON-
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TENTS ARE ESSENTIALLY AS DESCRIBED IN REFERENCES (A) AND (B). SOME OF THE DETAILS NOW ARE BEING IRONED OUT BY GAUS (FRG MISSION HEAD IN EAST BERLIN) AND NIER, HIS OPPOSITE NUMBER IN GDR FOREIGN OFFICE. IF I UNDERSTOOD STOBBE CORRECTLY, PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE RESULTS OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS IS EXPECTED EVEN BEFORE THE SCHMIDT TRIP TO MOSCOW. KLEIN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, NUCLEAR ENERGY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BERLIN01694
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740270-0674
From: BERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740917/aaaaanqd.tel
Line Count: 113
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: (A) BERLIN 1680 (B) BONN 15121
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 MAY 2002 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <11 MAR 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STILL MORE ON PRESENT FRG-GDR RELATIONSHIP
TAGS: PFOR, WB, GE, GC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005